

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): James N. Ray Art Unit: 1734
Serial No.: 10/726,358 Examiner: Brenda Adele Lamb
Filing date: December 3, 2003
For: CELLULOSE PRESERVATIVE METHOD AND APPARATUS

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn) A process for treating a cellulose material with a predetermined concentration of preservative and a fluid in a mixture comprising the steps of applying the mixture to the cellulose material under pressure to enable at least some of the preservative in the mixture to be absorbed within the material, thereby depleting the concentration of the preservative in the mixture, replenishing the preservative depleted mixture with more preservative and circulating the replenished mixture under pressure to the cellulose material that is being treated.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (withdrawn) A process according to Claim 1 further comprising the step draining the mixture from the cellulose material.

Claims 5 – 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (withdrawn) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the cellulose material comprises a wood product.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An apparatus for treating cellulose materials with a preservative and a fluid ~~in a mixture~~ comprising a work tank for holding the fluid and the preservative in a predetermined concentration, a pump in selective fluid communication with said work tank for drawing the ~~mixed~~ fluid and preservative from said work tank, a pressure vessel for

accommodating the cellulose material, said pressure vessel being in communication with said work tank through said pump, ~~a pressure relief valve in communication with said pressure vessel and said work tank~~ to enable ~~at least some of~~ the preservative to be depleted through treating the material to further enable the fluid and said depleted preservative to return to said work tank in response to said pump, and means for selectively replenishing said ~~returned fluid and depleted~~ preservative in said work tank with more of the preservative; whereby said pump circulates said replenished ~~mixed fluid and~~ preservative to said pressure vessel.

Claim 10 (original): An apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a heater for heating the fluid and the preservative in said work tank to a predetermined temperature.

Claim 11 (original): An apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a vacuum pump in fluid communication with said pressure vessel to draw selectively a vacuum within said pressure vessel.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising a discharge pump for selectively withdrawing the fluid and said depleted preservative from said pressure vessel and returning the fluid and the said depleted preservative to said work tank.

Claim 13 and 14 (canceled).